A *Hornet* Special Section



by Curtis Clarkson

AIDS kills and you are at risk.

"Not me," you say?

Wake up! **AIDS does not discriminate.**

Your brother, your father, your uncle, your boss, your best friend, your lover — you — anyone can die of AIDS.

Whether you are a homosexual, a heterosexual, a Jew, a person of color, white, a hemophiliac, have ever engaged in "risky" sex, shared needles or have been accused of being human — you are a candidate for exposure to HIV, the AIDS virus.

What's more, the Public Health Service estimates by 1992, a total of 365,000 people will have been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States and you and everyone else in this country will probably know someone who is HIV infected or has died of AIDS.

Scary??? You're damn right.

It is time we all realize the killing potential of this horrific disease that is plaguing us now and will be well on into the 21st century.

Now is the time we learn how to protect ourselves and our loved ones from AIDS and in the process wipe away all the myths and prejudices we keep towards the disease and those infected.

AIDS kills and you are at risk.

Get the facts! For more information regarding AIDS — prevention, literature, medical assessment, HIV testing, counseling, referral and support groups, phone the CSUS AIDS Education Project at 278-6665, the Sacramento AIDS Foundation at 448-2437, or the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at 1-800-367-2437.

©1990 Emilio Soltero
All rights reserved. May not be reproduced without permission.



THE CITY IS FILLED WITH MANY HIDDEN STORIES, HIDDEN FEARS. THERE IS ONE FEAR THAT HAS SURFACED ONTO INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION, BUT STILL IGNORED BY MANY... AIDS. IT HAS SPREAD ITSELF, IT CAPITALIZES ON THE FEAR OF THE PEOPLE. MANY IGNORE IT--*IT WILL GO AWAY, THEY SAY*, YET IT **CONTINUES TO RUN**...



IT RUNS THROUGHOUT THE CITY, BETWEEN THE WEALTHY AND POOR, BETWEEN ALL THE COLORS OF PEOPLE. MANY DO NOT SPEAK OF AIDS, OPENLY, BUT DEEP, VERY DEEP, WITHIN... EVERYONE IS THINKING...



SO IS HARRY IGNO AT THIS VERY MOMENT. HE IS CAUTIOUS OF EVERYONE. HARRY KNOWS ANY ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE COULD HAVE THE DREADED DISEASE.



HE HEARS THAT YOU CAN GET AIDS BY SEXUAL INTERCOURSE OR BY SHARING NEEDLES, BUT HARRY'S STIGMA OF AIDS LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN GET AIDS BY JUST



WALKING DOWN THE STREET.

FOR A FLEETING MOMENT HE THINKS ABOUT HIS SISTER, **ESPERANZA, THAT** *CRAZY PARTY GIRL*. SHE, UNLIKE HIMSELF, SHOULD BE THE ONE TO WORRY.

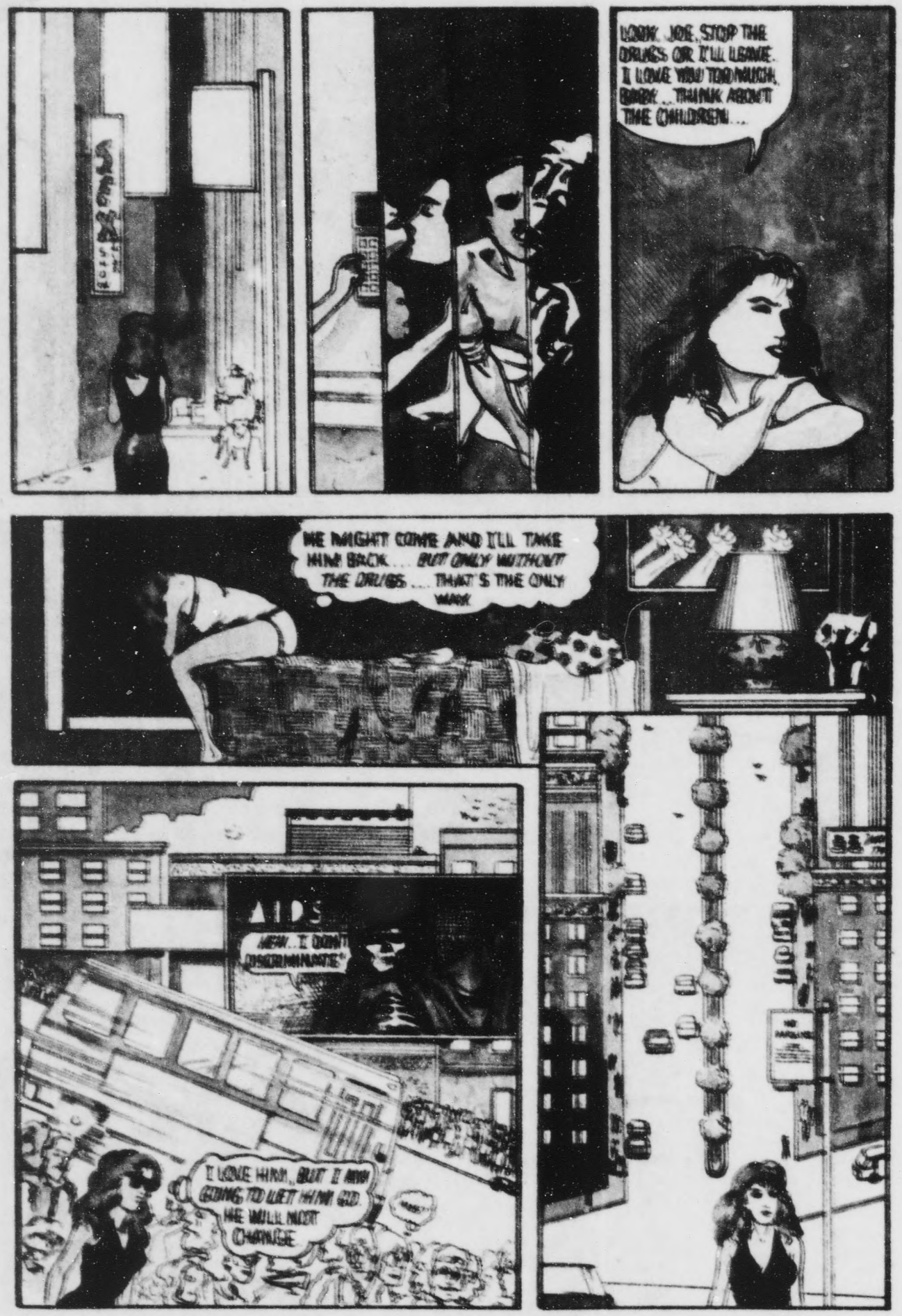






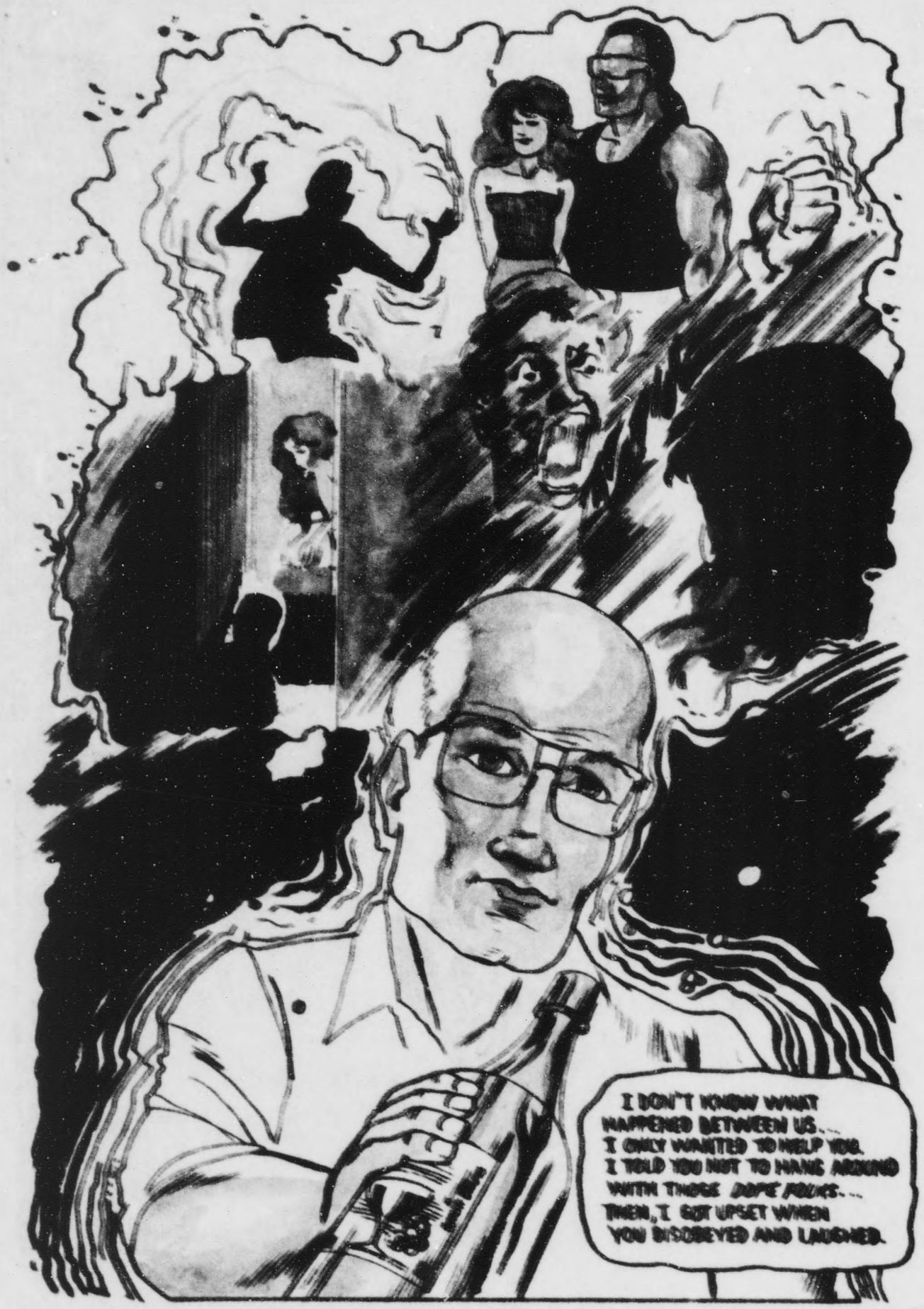


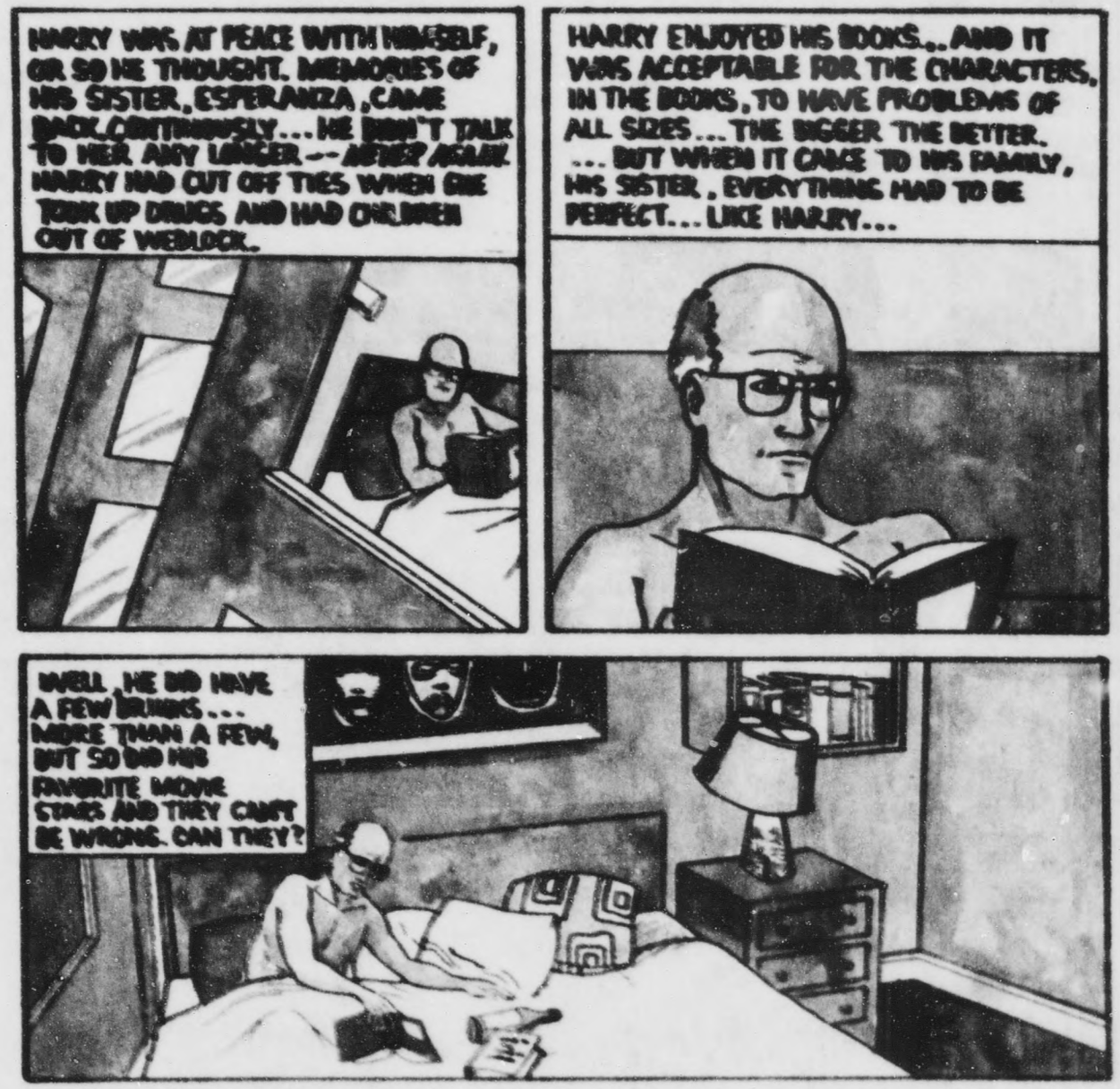
page 3

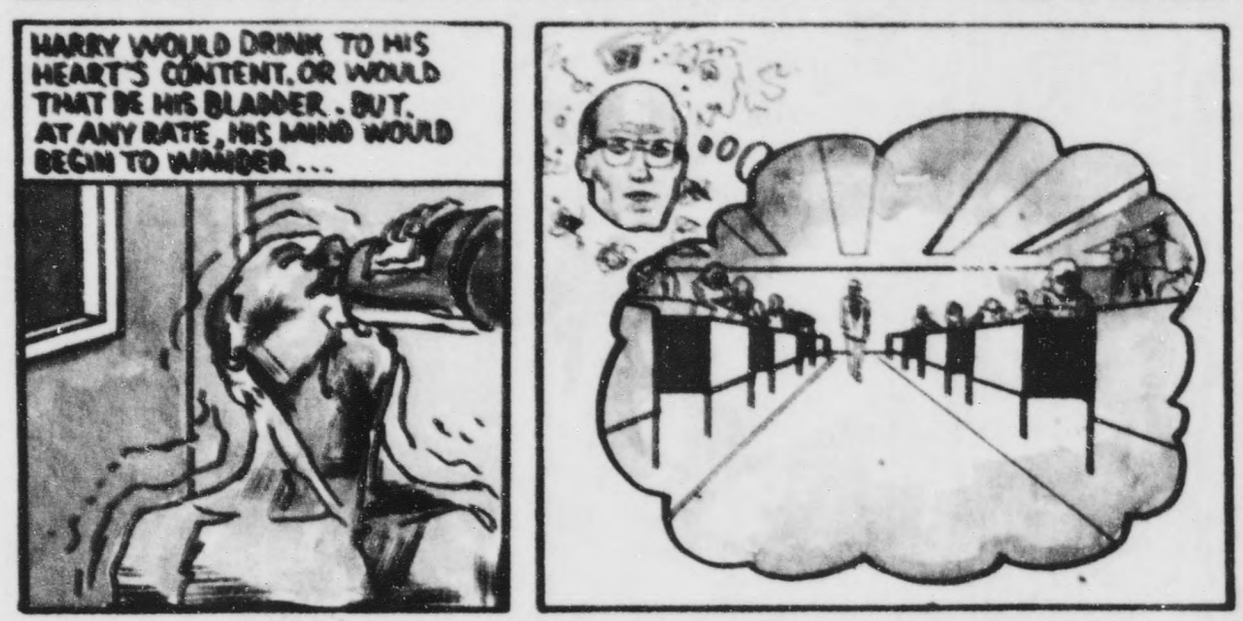

LOOK, JOE, STOP THE DRUGS OR I'LL LEAVE. I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH, BABY... THINK ABOUT THE CHILDREN...
WE MIGHT COME AND I'LL TAKE HIM BACK... BUT ONLY WITHOUT THE DRUGS... THAT'S THE ONLY WAY
AIDS MEAN... I DON'T DISCRIMINATE
I LOVE HIM, BUT I AM GOING TO LET HIM GO HE WILL NOT CHANGE

page 4


THEY ARE ALL I HAVE. I LOVE THEM...
SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SAD...
WE'RE OUT OF MONEY... JOE IS ALWAYS BROKE... WHAT CAN I DO ... NOT TACO SMELL... I KNOW
BLOOD BANK
I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.
WE HAVE A PROBLEM... I NEED YOU TO COME BACK...
AND WHEN I CAME BACK THE TERM AIDS MEANT SOMETHING NEW TO...
I... I... CAN'T... I CAN!... THE KIDS... I MUST


I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US... I ONLY WANTED TO HELP YOU. I TOLD YOU NOT TO HANG AROUND WITH THOSE DOPE FIENDS... THEN, I GOT UPSET WHEN YOU DISOBEYED AND LAUGHED.


HARRY WAS AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF, OR SO HE THOUGHT. MEMORIES OF HIS SISTER, ESPERANZA, CAME BACK CONTINUOUSLY... HE DIDN'T TALK TO HER ANY LONGER -- NEVER AGAIN. HARRY HAD CUT OFF TIES WHEN SHE TOOK UP DRUGS AND HAD CHILDREN OUT OF WEDLOCK.
HARRY ENJOYED HIS BOOKS... AND IT WAS ACCEPTABLE FOR THE CHARACTERS, IN THE BOOKS, TO HAVE PROBLEMS OF ALL SIZES... THE BIGGER THE BETTER. ... BUT WHEN IT CAME TO HIS FAMILY, HIS SISTER, EVERYTHING HAD TO BE PERFECT... LIKE HARRY...


WELL, HE DID HAVE A FEW DRINKS... MORE THAN A FEW, BUT SO DID HIS FAVORITE MOVIE STARS AND THEY CAN'T BE WRONG. CAN THEY?

HARRY WOULD DRINK TO HIS HEART'S CONTENT, OR WOULD THAT BE HIS BLADDER. BUT, AT ANY RATE, HIS MIND WOULD BEGIN TO WANDER...


ANOTHER DAY AT WORK. ...mmm..., WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT THE JOB. HA! WHAT WOULD THEY DO WITHOUT ME?!
HARRY, THE BIG CHEESE WANTS TO SEE YOU.
...hmm... I WONDER WHY!
HARRY, I'VE IMPORTANT NEWS FOR YOU.. YOU'RE
YOU'RE AN EFFICIENT WORKER ... BUT... I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT YOUR DRINKING... I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS ANY LONGER.
YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND... YOU CAN STAY AN EXTRA MONTH.


THE KIDS ARE MY ONLY REASON TO KEEP GOING.
I'LL CALL HARRY. I HOPE HE'LL TALK TO ME THIS TIME.
MAMI?
HANG ON SON!
PLEASE ANSWER BEFORE I GO CRAZY!
I SHOULD ANSWER IT BUT IT'S PROBABLY MY SISTER.
RRRING
RING
THE DOOR. THAT'S THE LANDLADY. hmm... the rent!
KNOCK KNOC
HARRY! OPEN UP! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! HARRY!
HARRY! YOU GOT UNTIL TOMORROW TO PAY YOUR RENT.
TOMORROW!... OR ELSE YOU'RE OUT. THERE'S A NICE COUPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED..
HARRY, A FEW DAYS LATER
KEEP TAKING YOUR MEDI-CATION, ESPERANZA...
...I AM GETTING WEAKER, DOCTOR... I AM AFRAID.


MOM... SIT DOWN. I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU... I... I HAVE AIDS... ARE YOU THERE?


...EAT THE RIGHT FOOD, MAKE SURE THE KIDS DO THEIR HOMEWORK... AND
MOM!

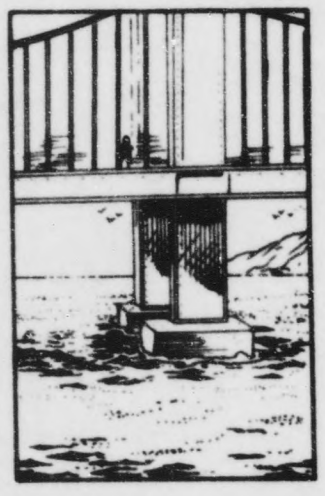

LET'S SEE IF HARRY IS HOME... HE KNOWS IT'S ME AND... C'MON ANSWER... RECORDER


...I NEED SOMEONE'S HELP...


GIVE ME STRENGTH, LORD.


FATHER SAID NEVER COME BY...


I WON'T JUMP ...THAT'S TOO EASY




ESPERANZA, YOU'RE GOING TO HANDLE THIS...
RIGHT


...OH, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO. HARRY, WHERE ARE YOU?


NOW I UNDERSTAND MY SISTER ... ESPERANZA, I AM SORRY... BUT I AM ASHAMED TO TELL YOU...


...IT'S SO EASY TO JUDGE...




HARRY! OH... HARRY...


HARRY... IT'S ME, YOUR SISTER.




I... I AM SORRY. PLEASE, FORGIVE ME...


I UNDERSTAND. WE ALL NEED HELP... WE MUST LOOK BEYOND MISCONCEPTIONS... BEYOND OUR FEARS.


I AM SORRY... AIDS AFFECTS EVERYONE AND SO DOES SEXISM, RACISM ... AND... ...I... I AM SORRY... I WILL BE THERE FOR YOU,... PLEASE, I NEED YOUR HELP...
HARRY MUST'VE BEEN FIRED... PROBABLY DUE TO HIS DRINKING.
NOT FIN

AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS

1. Know the facts about AIDS

2. Know how to protect yourself and your family

3. Tell others

If you are a parent:	Learn the facts about AIDS. Talk to your children. Encourage them to share your family's moral and religious values. Make certain they know how to avoid AIDS. Protect yourself and your partner by maintaining a mutually faithful, single-partner relationship.
If you are a grandparent:	Learn the facts about AIDS. Talk openly to your children and grandchildren about your concern for their safety and well-being. Tell them how to avoid getting infected with the AIDS virus.
If you are a young person:	Discuss and understand and live by your family's values. Say "no" to drugs. And say "no" to sex until you are ready to enter into a mutually faithful, single-partner relationship with an uninfected person.
If you are sexually active:	Enter into a mutually faithful, single-partner relationship with an uninfected person, or at least be sure to reduce your risk by using condoms.
If you think you may be infected with the AIDS virus:	Talk to your doctor or local health clinic about having the AIDS antibody test. Don't put other people at risk by having sex with them or by sharing drug needles or syringes.

For more information, call the AIDS Information line, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 1-800-342-AIDS

An Important Message from the U.S. Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control